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ONTO-TOKOY RESERVOIR AND CHU CANAL IN THE USSR

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

The Kara-Kudzhir stream originates in the Tyan-Shan Mountain Range, at the edge of glaciers, at a height of almost 5,000 meters. After joining other streams, it becomes the Chu River, a rapid mountain river, which approaches Lake Issyk-Kul', and then makes a sharp turn west, emerging through the narrow Boomskoye Gorge into a wide valley. The river has plenty of water in it during July, when the ice melts in the mountains, but during the first half of the summer, there is not enough water in the river to irrigate the fields.(1)

The river reaches the fertile valleys of Frunzenskaya Colast in Kirgiz SSR, and some regions of the Kazakh SSR. The Great Chu Canal (Bol'shoy Chuyskiy Kanal), which really is only the western branch of the projected canal, has already been completed. The canal has made possible the utilization of some former waste lands, spread over 145 kilometers of Frunzenskaya Oblast, for agriculture. A settlement for the personnel operating the canal was completed recently near Tokmak city. Complicated water-distributing structures are located near the settlement. Similar settlements and water-distributing structures are under construction at other sections of the canal.(2)

At the beginning of the 20th century, the Russian engineer Vasil'yev prepared complete plans for utilizing the waters of the Chu River for irrigation. The project was not started until recently, when the 19th Party Congress directed building a dam on the river. The dam will form a reservoir at a point 1,750 meters above sea level; the reservoir will hold 500 million cubic meters of water. The earthen dam will be 56 meters high and over 500 meters wide at its base.(1)

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In its upper reaches above Boomskoye Gorge and to the southeast of the gorge, the river flows through Orto-Tokoy Urochishche /area or tract/, which is an oval-shaped depression 18 kilometers long and 12 kilometers wide surrounded by steep rocks. The depression has two narrow crevices, one at the northern and the other at the southern end. The river enters the depression through one of the crevices and leaves it through the other. The dam will be built across the crevice which serves asthe river's outlet, thus forming the Orto-Tokoy Reservoir.

The work on the dam is going on day and night. At present, it consists mainly of boring a tunnel through the rocks into which the river will be diverted during the construction work on the dam. The dam will have a spillway to take care of unusual flood waters during the ice-melting season.

The construction plan for 1952 was fulfilled on 7 November. Bulatov, chief of the construction, revealed that the volume of work planned for 1953 will be five times greater than that of 1952.

When completed, the reservoir will regulate the water flow in the river to supply water for irrigation of the Chu valley in the Kirgiz SSR and the Kazakh SSR at the appropriate time and in needed quantities.

The reservoir will make it possible (a) to improve water supply for 200,000 hectares which are now irrigated and (b) to irrigate 100,000 additional hectares.(2)

The Construction Administration of the Orto-Tokoy Reservoir needs skilled workmen. Workmen are to apply to the Administration at Ortotokoy Settlement, Balykchinskiy Rayon, Issyk-Kul'skaya Oblast, or at No 1, Novo-Panfilovskaya Ulitsa, Frunze City.(3)

SOURCES

- 1. Frunze, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, 11 Jan 53
- 2. Moscow, Izvestiya, 26 Dec 52
- Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, 10 Oct 52

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